



Atty. Dkt. No. 069818-1602

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: BAETS et al.
Title: SEPARATION OF BIOMASS
FROM LACTIC-ACID
CONTAINING
FERMENTATION PRODUCTS
BY MEANS OF
FLOCCULATION
Appl. No.: 10/690,548
Filing Date: October 23, 2003
Examiner: Herbert J. Lilling
Art Unit: 1651
Confirmation Number: 7955

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed March 02, 2006, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, Claims 1-14, for examination, with traverse.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the Office has not shown that there would be a serious burden to examine the claims of Groups I-III together. As set forth in MPEP § 803, there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is required. Because a burden must be shown, and because the Office has not

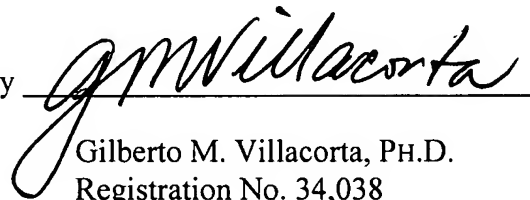
demonstrated such a burden, Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 30, 2006

By



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